

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
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News and Information
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Fuels Reduction Project Continues in Canyon City

JOHN DAY/CANYON CITY—In an effort to reduce forest fuels, firefighters will begin igniting slash piles on public lands that lie adjacent to the community of Canyon City, located 1 mile southeast of John Day. Burning operations are planned to begin today, depending on weather and ground conditions.

An engine crew will ignite and monitor approximately 1,500 piles of slash left over from a thinning project completed by a private contractor in the fall of 2002. Residents should expect smoke in the area, as a majority of the piles are still green. In an effort to minimize the impact of smoke accumulation, firefighters will cease ignition by 2:00 pm each day.

Firefighters will concentrate first on slash piles that pose the greatest threat to adjacent homes. The project area is 70 acres in size and the project is anticipated to take 2-3 weeks to complete.

This fuels reduction project was initiated by a group of concerned homeowners in Canyon City and John Day in the spring of 2002. The community group approached the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management with a request to reduce the forest fuels accumulation on Little Canyon Mountain. Land managers responded by discussing both short-term and long-term management options to address the problem.

“We heard the concerns of local residents and agreed with the need for immediate fuels reduction treatment in that community,” said Prineville District Manager Barron Bail.

The Prineville District BLM is also in process of completing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that addresses long-term planning efforts for the management of Little Canyon Mountain. The Draft EA is expected to be available for public comment as early as April of 2003. For more information, contact the Prineville Bureau of Land Management at (541) 416-6700.

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